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(71) Applicant: **Nippon Telegraph and Telephone
Corporation
Tokyo (JP)**

(72) Inventor: **Hideo, Namatsu
Musashino-shi, Tokyo 180-8585 (JP)**

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(74) Representative: **Pfenning, Meinig & Partner
Mozartstrasse 17
80336 München (DE)**

(54) **Supercritical drying method and supercritical drying apparatus**

(57) According to a supercritical drying method of this invention, a substrate having a pattern is dipped in water and rinsed with water. Then, the substrate is placed in the reaction chamber of a predetermined seal-

able vessel, and surfactant-added liquid carbon dioxide is introduced into the reaction chamber. The substrate is dipped in surfactant-added liquid carbon dioxide, and liquid carbon dioxide is changed to the supercritical state. After that, supercritical carbon dioxide is gasified.

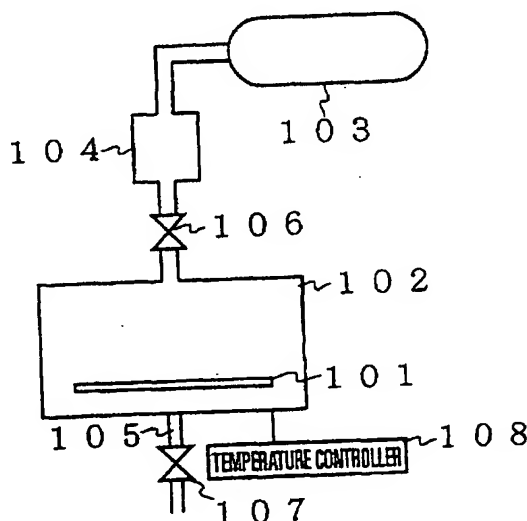


FIG. 1

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 20 February 2002	Examiner Silvis, H
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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